[8th February 1924

A.—No Military Assistant Surgeon has been confirmed as Civil Surgeon in the place of Dr. Nedungadi.

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" My question is 'why on the retirement of Dr. Nedungadi, a military assistant surgeon was confirmed as civil surgeon without one in the regular line being promoted to fill up the said vacancy.' But the answer is that 'no military assistant surgeon has been confirmed as civil surgeon in the place of Dr. Nedungadi'. Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government kindly give a more appropriate answer ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The answer given here is to the question that was already put, but if the hon. Member wants any further information at this stage, I should like to have notice to answer."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" I am not asking for further information, but I am asking for a more appropriate answer."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government has asked for notice of any further question that may be asked but the hon. Member the Raja of Ramnad is insisting that his question bears a certain meaning which the answer shows that the hon. the Minister has not understood, because the Raja of Ramnad says it is not appropriate. I too think that it is capable of another meaning, and the hon. Member had better put another question making his meaning clear, namely, that by the words 'on his retirement' he meant something else than 'in his place'.

Colonel Harley, I.M.S.

329 *Q.*—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to make Colonel Harley a 1st Surgeon ?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I think that my questions are mutilated beyond recognition even by their author. I made no reference to Colonel Harley's appointment as 1st Surgeon. I thought I must bring this matter to your notice, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understand that the hon. Member was communicated with about the curtailment of his question. Is that not so ? "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" True, Sir. But only certain questions were disallowed, which I agreed to. But my submission is that this question is one of the several others which remain to be answered. I sent a series of questions with regard to three gentlemen, Major Bradfield, Colonel Chowdari and Colonel Harley. One communication was received by me in which certain questions regarding statistical details as to the operations and other things conducted by Major Bradfield were asked to be omitted. I have received no communication other than that, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Was not the hon. Member informed that those parts of the question which bore on the number of operations, etc., were disallowed for certain reasons mentioned in the communication to him ? "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" True, Sir. Apart from those questions, I sent other questions about which I received no communication. I do not raise any objection to the questions disallowed by you so far."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Then the case is that the hon. Member has had no notice that this question is being put in this changed form. Was there not a notice of questions which the hon. Member must have received some time ago ? "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—" I am afraid I have not perused it, Sir. This last one (holding the printed copy in his hand) is the only notice paper that I have perused so far. As I could raise this objection only at question time, I am referring to it now."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is apparently dissatisfied with the way in which the questions were altered. It is perfectly open to him to tell the Secretary that he does not like his questions to be changed and it will then be for the Secretary to consider the objection and suggest some other method of procedure. I would therefore advise the hon. Member to write to the Secretary what he wants to say on the matter, and I shall then dispose of it."

Public Health.

Nuisance caused by patients suffering from contagious diseases in Mangalore.

330 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons suffering from leprosy, syphilis and other loathsome diseases or crowding in public places is so large as to be a serious menace to the public health of the town ;

(b) what steps are being taken to stop this nuisance under the existing law ;

(c) what arrangements are made for accommodation and treatment of such patients ;

(d) what grants are given by Government to existing Missionary or other Leper Asylums in South Kanara ; and

(e) whether these grants are found sufficient for isolating lepers ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information.

(d) A capitation grant of Rs. 4-8-0 per mensem for each inmate treated subject to a maximum of Rs. 3,670 a year is paid to the St. Joseph's Leper Asylum at Mangalore.

(e) The grant is not intended to cover the entire cost of segregating lepers.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The increase of lepers prowling in the public streets of Mangalore is becoming a serious nuisance and it is now greater than before. And attention has been drawn to this matter in several papers in Mangalore and Calicut. Will the hon. the Chief Minister therefore be pleased to call for information mentioned in clauses (a) to (c) ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Government have no objection to call for the information, Sir."